

1FW/36/6



XA-10442
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Naoki SAWADA et al.

Appln. No.: 10/550,712

Group Art Unit: 3616

Filing Date: September 26, 2005

For: STEERING APPARATUS FOR A VEHICLE

* * *

REQUEST FOR CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

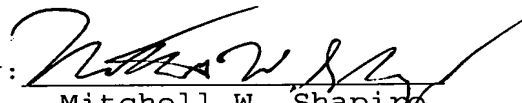
Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the official filing receipt be corrected as shown on the attached copy. See the accompanying supporting documentation.

Please issue a corrected filing receipt to correct the title of the invention, and please make the necessary correction in the Patent Office database.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:ecr

By: 
Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 903-9000
August 14, 2006



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 www.uspto.gov

APPL NO.	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	PRT UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLMS	IND CLMS
10/550,712	09/26/2005	3646	900	XA-10442	16	9	2

CONFIRMATION NO. 3040

181
 MILES & STOCKBRIDGE PC
 1751 PINNACLE DRIVE
 SUITE 500
 MCLEAN, VA 22102-3833

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2006

MILES & STOCKBRIDGE P.C.
 TYSONS CORNER

FILING RECEIPT



OC000000019335589

Date Mailed: 06/21/2006

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

Naoki Sawada, Gunma, JAPAN;
 Yuichi Tomaru, Gunma, JAPAN;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 181.

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP04/03515 03/17/2004

Foreign Applications

JAPAN 2003-085692 03/26/2003

Projected Publication Date: 09/28/2006

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

Steering device for motor vehicle
 apparatus

Preliminary Class

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER Title 35, United States Code, Section 184 Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

GRANTED

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

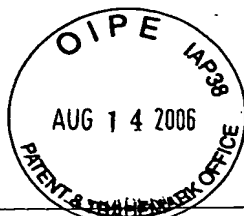
This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the

national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

NOT GRANTED

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).



NSK 2660 PCT-US

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

私は、以下に記名された発明者として、ここに下記の通り宣言する：

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、郵便の宛先そして国籍は、私の氏名の後に記載された通りである。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明について、特許請求範囲に記載され、且つ特許が求められている発明主題に関して、私は、最初で、最先且つ唯一の発明者である（唯一の氏名が記載されている場合）か、或いは最初、最先且つ共同発明者である（複数の氏名が記載されている場合）と信じている。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

STEERING APPARATUS FOR A VEHICLE

上記発明の明細書はここに添付されているが、下記の欄がチェックされている場合は、この限りでない：

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ _____ の日に出願され、
この出願の米国出願番号または PCT 国際出願番号は、
_____ であり、且つ
_____ の日に補正された出願（該当する場合）

☒ was filed on March 17, 2004
as United States Application Number or
PCT International Application Number
PCT/JP2004/003515 and was amended on
_____ (if applicable).

私は、上記の補正書によって補正された、特許請求範囲を含む上記明細書を検討し、且つ内容を理解していることをここに表明する。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第 37 編規則 1.56 に定義されている、特許性について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを承認する。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

私は、ここに、以下に記載した外国での特許出願または発明者証出願、或いは米国以外の少なくとも一国を指定している米国法典第35編第365条(a)によるPCT国際出願について、同第119条(a)-(d)項又は第365条(b)項に基づいて優先権の利益を主張するとともに、優先権を主張する本出願の出願日より前の出願日を有する外国で特許出願または発明者証出願、或いはPCT国際出願については、いかなる出願も、下記の枠内をチェックすることにより示した。

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)
外国での先行出願

Priority Claimed YES NO

優先権主張 あり なし

2003-085692 JAPAN

(Number) (Country)
(番号) (国名)

26/March/2003

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願日/月/年)

☒ ☐

(Number) (Country)
(番号) (国名)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願日/月/年)

☐ ☐

他の優先権出願については添付のリスト参照

See attached list for additional prior foreign applications.

私は、ここに、下記のいかなる米国仮特許出願についても、その米国法典第35編119条(e)項の利益を主張する。

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.) (Filing Date)
(出願番号) (出願日)

(Application No.) (Filing Date)
(出願番号) (出願日)

私は、ここに、下記のいかなる米国出願についても、その米国法典第35編第120条に基づく利益を主張し、又米国を指定するいかなるPCT国際出願についても、その同第365条(c)に基づく利益を主張する。また、本出願の各特許請求の範囲の主題が、米国法典第35編第112条第1段に規定された態様で、先行する米国出願又はPCT国際出願に開示されていない場合においては、その先行出願の出願日と本国内出願日またはPCT国際出願日との間の期間中に入手された情報で、連邦規則法典第37編規則1.56に定義された特許性に関する重要な情報について開示義務があることを承認する。

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

(Application No.) (Filing Date)
(出願番号) (出願日)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可、係属中、放棄)

(Application No.) (Filing Date)
(出願番号) (出願日)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可、係属中、放棄)

私は、ここに表明された私自身の知識に係る陳述が真実であり、且つ情報と信ずることに基づく陳述が、真実であると信じられることを宣言し、さらに、故意に虚偽の陳述などを行った場合は、米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、若しくはその両方により処罰され、またそのような故意による虚偽の陳述は、本出願またはそれに対して発行されるいかなる特許も、その有効性に問題が生ずることを理解した上で陳述が行われたことを、ここに宣言する。

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

委任状： 私は本出願を審査する手続を行い、且つ米国特許商標庁との全ての業務を遂行するために、記名された発明者として、下記の弁護士及び／または弁理士を任命する。

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint The following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this Application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Nelson H. Shapiro, Reg. No. 17,095, Mitchell W. Shapiro, Reg. No. 31,568 and the other practitioners associated with Customer No. 000181

全ての通信は下記の住所へ送付されたい。

Please direct all communications to the following address:

Customer No. 000181

唯一または第一発明者氏名

Full name of sole or first inventor

Naoki SAWADA

発明者の署名

日付

Signature

Date

Naoki Sawada

Aug. 22. 2005

住所

Residence

Gunma-ken, Japan

国籍

Citizenship

JAPAN

郵便の宛先

Post Office Address

c/o NSK STEERING SYSTEMS CO., LTD.
8-1, Soja-machi 1-chome, Maebashi-shi, Gunma
371-8528 Japan

第二共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名

Full name of second joint inventor, if any

Yuichi TOMARU

発明者の署名

日付

Signature

Date

Yuichi Tomaru

Aug. 22. 2005

住所

Residence

Gunma-ken, Japan

国籍

Citizenship

JAPAN

郵便の宛先

Post Office Address

c/o NSK STEERING SYSTEMS CO., LTD.
8-1, Soja-machi 1-chome, Maebashi-shi, Gunma
371-8528 Japan

第三共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名

Full name of third joint inventor, if any

発明者の署名

日付

Signature

Date

住所

Residence

国籍

Citizenship

郵便の宛先

Post Office Address



XA-10442
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Naoki SAWADA et al.

Appln. No.: 10/550,712

Group Art Unit: 3616

Filing Date: September 26, 2005

For: STEERING APPARATUS FOR A VEHICLE

* * *

TRANSMITTAL OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

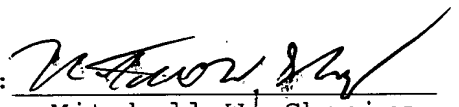
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an English translation of the
International Preliminary Report on Patentability

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:ms

By: 
Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 903-9000
August 14, 2006

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference NSK002660PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/003515	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 17 March 2004 (17.03.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 26 March 2003 (26.03.2003)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant NSK LTD.		

1.	This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).																								
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet. In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.																								
3.	<p>This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 30%;">Box No. I</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application																							
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application																							
4.	The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).																								

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Date of issuance of this report 21 February 2006 (21.02.2006)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Authorized officer Yoshiko Kuwahara</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Telephone No. +41 22 338 90 90</td> </tr> </table>	Date of issuance of this report 21 February 2006 (21.02.2006)	Authorized officer Yoshiko Kuwahara	Telephone No. +41 22 338 90 90
Date of issuance of this report 21 February 2006 (21.02.2006)				
Authorized officer Yoshiko Kuwahara				
Telephone No. +41 22 338 90 90				

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

Translation

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div>		Date of mailing (day/month/year)
Applicant's or agent's file reference NSK002660PCT		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/003515	International filing date (day/month/year) 17.03.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 26.03.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC		
Applicant NSK LTD.		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the opinion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/003515

Box No. 1 Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/003515

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	2-4, 6, 7	YES
	Claims	1, 5	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	6, 7	YES
	Claims	1-5	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-7	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations:			
<p>The inventions of claims 1 and 5 do not appear to be novel based on document 1 [JP, 2002-087285, A (NSK Ltd.)].</p> <p>It is found that document 1 (paragraphs 0013-0035, Figs. 1-3 and 5 etc.) discloses a steering device for motor vehicle identical to the invention of the present application.</p> <p>The invention of claim 2 does not appear to involve an inventive step based on document 1.</p> <p>Rotatably supporting a steering shaft on two sections of a column is a matter that could be designed as appropriate by a party skilled in the art in view of stability.</p> <p>The invention of claim 3 does not appear to involve an inventive step based on document 1, document 2 [Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the written application of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 34327/1990 (Laid-Open Utility Model No. 124985/1991), (Fuji Kiko Co., Ltd.)], and document 3 [Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the written application of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 31634/1990 (Laid-Open Utility Model No. 121971/1991), (Fuji Kiko Co., Ltd.)].</p> <p>As described in document 2 and document 3 (Fig. 3), forming an inner column (shaft) and outer jacket in a noncircular shape is merely well-known art.</p> <p>The invention of claim 4 does not appear to involve an inventive step based on document 1 and document 4 [JP, 2002-120731, A (NSK Ltd.)].</p> <p>Document 4 (paragraphs 0026-0028, Figs. 3 and 4) discloses a rotation stopper and axial stopper member (stopper member 11) identical to the invention of the present application; therefore, applying this technology to document 1 is not particularly difficult.</p>			